

3. (Original) The grille of claim 2, in which the polymeric material is cross-linked polyethylene.

4. (Currently Amended) In a tractor having a tractor frame, which has a front portion, a combination comprising a grille, which has a grille frame fastened to the front portion of the tractor frame, the grille frame comprising hollow frame members that define a substantially rectangular front open area, a bracket, which is mounted to the front portion of the tractor frame and which projects frontwardly from the front portion of the tractor frame, through an aperture in one of the hollow frame members of the grille frame, and a guard, which is fastened to the bracket, in front of the grille.

5. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 4, wherein the grille frame has a lower portion which is fastened to the front portion of the tractor frame only at the lower portion of the grille frame.

6. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 5, in which the aperture is located in the lower portion of the grille frame.

7. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 4, in which the grille frame is molded from a polymeric material.

8. (Original) The combination of claim 7, in which the polymeric material is cross-linked polyethylene.

9. (Currently Amended) In a tractor having a tractor frame, which has a front portion, a combination comprising a grille, which has a grille frame fastened to the front portion of the tractor frame, wherein the grille frame comprises a three-dimensional space frame, which is formed by hollow frame members, a pair of brackets, each of which is mounted to the front portion of the tractor frame and each of which projects frontwardly, through an aperture in a hollow member of the grille frame, and a guard, which is fastened to the brackets, in front of the grille.

10. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 9, wherein the grille frame has a lower portion which is fastened to the front portion of the tractor frame only at the lower portion of the grille frame.

11. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 10, in which the apertures are located in the lower portion of the grille frame.

12. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 9, in which the grille frame is molded from a polymeric material.

13. (Original) The combination of claim 12, in which the polymeric material is cross-linked polyethylene.

14. (Currently Amended) In a tractor having a tractor frame, which has a front portion, a grille having a grille frame, which is hollow, which has a lower portion, and which is fastened to the front portion of the tractor frame only at the lower portion of the grille frame;

wherein the grille frame comprises a structure having three sides, each side comprising a substantially rectangular subframe, each substantially rectangular subframe defining an open central region, ~~which is~~ each subframe formed by hollow frame members.

15. (Currently Amended) In a tractor having a tractor frame, which has a front portion, a grille having a grille frame, which is hollow, which has a lower portion, and which is fastened to the front portion of the tractor frame only at the lower portion of the grille frame;

wherein the grille frame comprises a three-dimensional space frame, which is formed by hollow frame members, said space frame defining front and side open areas between adjacent vertical ones of said hollow frame members.

16. (Previously Added) The grille of claim 14, in which the grille frame is molded from a polymeric material.

17. (Previously Added) The grille of claim 16, in which the polymeric material is cross-linked polyethylene.

18. (Previously Added) The grille of claim 15, in which the grille frame is molded from a polymeric material.

19. (Previously Added) The grille of claim 18, in which the polymeric material is cross-linked polyethylene.

20. (Currently Amended) In a tractor having a tractor frame, a radiator carried by the tractor frame, and a grille mounted in front of the radiator, the grille having a grille frame with front frame members surrounding a front-facing opening that is substantially covered by an air permeable front wall, the improvement comprising:

said front frame members comprising horizontal and vertical tubular members connected together to be substantially closed and to substantially retain air therein, said tubular members composed of plastic.

21. (Previously Added) The improvement according to claim 20, wherein said tubular members have rectangular cross sections.

22. (Previously Added) The improvement according to claim 20, wherein said plastic is composed of cross-linked polyethylene.

23. (Currently Amended) In a tractor having a tractor frame, a radiator carried by the tractor frame, and a grille mounted in front of the radiator, the grille having a grille

frame with front frame members surrounding a front-facing opening that is substantially covered by an air permeable front wall, the improvement comprising:

said front frame members comprising tubular members connected together to be substantially closed and to substantially retain air therein, said tubular members composed of plastic; and

~~The improvement according to claim 20,~~ wherein said frame further includes hollow right side frame members at least partially defining a right side opening, and hollow left side frame members at least partially defining a left side opening, said right side opening and said left side opening each substantially covered by an air permeable side wall, said front frame members, said right side frame members, said left side members, said front wall and said side walls together defining a three dimensional structure, said side walls each substantially perpendicular to said front wall.

24. (Previously Added) The improvement according to claim 23, wherein said grille frame is mounted to said tractor frame only by fasteners extending through bottom members of said front frame members and bottom members of said left and right side frame members.

25. (Previously Added) The improvement according to claim 20, wherein said grille frame is mounted to said tractor frame only along a bottom region thereof.